

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claim 24 was rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Claims 1-19 and 21-32 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujioka in view of Smith et al. Claim 20 was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 1 now includes the features of the pigment comprising pigment particles of less than 10 microns size. Claims 2, 3, 24, 26 and 27 are cancelled. A new claim 33 corresponding to allowed claim 20 has been added.

The combinations of features of the independent claims are not disclosed or suggested by the prior art. Fujioka (U.S. Patent No. 5,405,438) describes a hot melt ink for ink jet printers and its vehicle or carrier has a melting point for phase change of the ink. It also discloses an aluminate coupling agent to make the pigments into fine particles (col. 3 lines 50-51). Thus, this document fails to describe the ceramic pigment particle or possible vitreous agent particle features of claim 1.

U.S. Patent No. 5,747,395 (Smith) relates to a glass composition, in which high viscosity of the carrier material resists sedimentation of particles by exerting shear forces on the particles. The color or pigmentation arises from the presence of Co^{2+} (Cobalt) ions which form part of the glass network itself.

Thus, it does not have a pigment which sets the color, the color instead being an inherent property of the glass network.

There is nothing in the prior art to suggest that one should combine the features of Fujioka and Smith to address the problem of achieving a more versatile and efficient way of printing heat resistant substrates. One of ordinary skill in the art would regard the Fujioka ink as being totally unsuitable for accommodating the Smith glass composition because of the latter's high density and lack of discrete pigment. The two compositions are too radically different for one of ordinary skill in the art to be motivated to try to combine them.

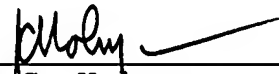
Furthermore even if one did combine the two, one would still not have the full combination of features of claim 1.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 18, 2003
JLS/dmt